

To the honorable Senator Osten, Senator Formica, and Representative Walker,

Our names are James and Jennifer Bradow and we are from Colchester. We have a son who attends the Glastonbury-East Hartford Magnet School (GEHMS) PK4 program. We would like to express our support for continued funding and support for this and all magnet schools.

As our state starts the process of building a new budget, all schools are now at risk to see a reduction in the support they are given to ensure student success. As parents, we view the continued support of education as paramount in the future of any state or municipality. When we reviewed our options for our son's education, we considered many different factors such as student diversity, school location, and community support. GEHMS shows how these factors can be blended together to give children the best possible environment to learn.

Our son started in the PK3 program and is currently enrolled in the PK4 program. Within this short period of time, he has started to learn many of the fundamentals of how to learn. His ability to write, read, and work in interactive groups has help mold him into a student that is excited to come to school each day. His classroom reflects the diverse world in which we live and work. This diversity aids in his learning around how working with students from different socio-economic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds are critical in a global society.

As parents, legislators, and educators, we must understand that education is the cornerstone for a bright and vibrant future of the State of Connecticut. We must believe that the skills we instill into our children today will help create bright future for every student. Proposals in adding Charter Schools or reducing funding for schools that are successful is not a path to the successful education of our children. The greatest gifts we give our children are love and care, supporting their dreams, and a base of knowledge that will lead them to their futures. GEHMS gives them all three.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I believe we can all work together to ensure a bright future for all children in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

James and Jennifer Bradow

Colchester, CT